

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Susumu IBARAKI

Serial No.: Unknown (Continuation of 09/110,560)

Filing Date: Herewith

For: DATA CONTROL METHOD, METHOD FOR EMBEDDING DATA  
CONTROL INFORMATION, METHOD FOR DETECTING DATA  
CONTROL INFORMATION, DEVICE FOR EMBEDDING DATA  
CONTROL INFORMATION, DEVICE FOR DETECTING DATA  
CONTROL INFORMATION, AND DEVICE FOR RECORDING DATA

Examiner: Tongoc Tran (Anticipated)

Art Unit: 2161 (Anticipated)

**Box Patent Application**  
**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Entry of the following amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENTS**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add claim 20 as follows:

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20. (New) A data control method comprising the steps of:

A) embedding prohibition information and N pieces of permission information in data (N is a natural number), wherein copying of the data is to be permitted N times; and

B) detecting the prohibition and permission information prior to the copying of the data,

wherein in the case where the permission information is detected from the data prior to the copying of the data, at least one of the N pieces of permission information in the data is invalidated, and then the copying of the data is permitted, while the remaining pieces of permission information remain valid within the data without necessitating that the remaining pieces of permission information be reembedded in the data.

#### **REMARKS**

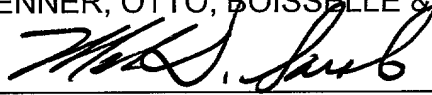
Claim 20 is pending in the application. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP



Mark D. Saralino

Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: July 25, 2001

The Keith Building  
1621 Euclid Avenue  
Nineteenth Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-1113

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